Minutes of Conference of Factory Statistical Officers - Canberra 10th - 13th November, 1947.

A conference of officers handling factory statistics in the Commonwealth and State statistical offices was held in Canberra from 10th to 13th November, 1947. The conference was opened by Dr. Wilson, Commonwealth Statistician. A resume of Dr. Wilson's Address is attached.

The following officers attended:-

Commonwealth	J.C.Stephen
	R.G.Walker
	H.M.Edwards
New South Wales	C.L. Walters
Victoria	P. Collins
Queensland	R.A.Nimmo
South Australia	W.T. Kelly
Western Australia	F.R.B. Purdy
Tasmania	J.M. Holliday

The items listed on the following agenda were discussed by Conference. Action was restricted to items 4 and 5(1).

AGENDA.

1. Appointment of Chairman.

2. Hours of Meeting.
   (Note: Motor Tour of City Area has been arranged for 3.30 p.m. Wednesday 12th).

3. Matters arising from decisions of 1945 Conference.

4. Consideration of Proposals for Backs of Forms.

5. Other Matters raised by correspondence
   (i) Amending factory classification to provide for Asbestos Cement Industry
   (ii) U.N.O. International Standard Industrial Classification.
   (iii) Statistics of Wine Production.

6. Other Matters not raised by correspondence
   (i) Comparison of Monthly and Annual Statistics.
   (ii) Output of Hats and Caps - Aggregation of Hat and Cap and Millinery establishment details.
   (iii) Resolution No.12 of 1945.

7. Matter of Report to Statisticians.

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1. Appointment of Chairman.
Mr. J.C. Stephen was proposed as Chairman by Mr. C.L.Walters and seconded by Mr. F.R. Purdy. This was agreed to.

2. Hours of Meeting.
It was proposed and agreed that the hours of meeting should be as follows:-

9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon.
2.00 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.

3. Matters Arising from Decisions of 1945 Conference.
Mr. Purdy suggested that Conference might discuss necessary action relative to Resolutions 6, 7 and 160 of the 1945 Conference. It was agreed however that Conference was not in a position to deal with these policy matters. A proposal to engage in general discussion on the problems was not proceeded with as most delegates were not prepared.

Item 5 (i) Amendment of Factory Classification to Provide for Asbestos Cement Industry.
It was proposed and agreed that Item 5(i) - Amendment of factory classification to provide for Asbestos Cement Industry - should be dealt with at this stage, this being an item which could be easily and quickly disposed of, before proceeding with discussion on the backs of factory forms.
The Chairman stated that, as a result of correspondence with Rocla Ltd., it had been agreed that Factory Classification Class I should

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be amended to provide for the separate tabulation of statistics relating to the Asbestos Cement Industry. Following discussion it was agreed that the factory classification be amended to read:-

Class I - 7 Cement, Portland.
- 8 Asbestos Cement Sheets & Mouldings.
- 9 Other Cement Goods.
-10 Other.

Representatives from all States agreed to dissect statistics for 1946-47 under these sub-classes.

4. Consideration of Proposals for the Backs of Factory Forms.

It was agreed that the procedure to be followed was that discussion and agreement be reached upon:-

1) The principle of major re-arrangement of each form, where this was proposed;
2) individual alterations as submitted and circulated;
3) further suggestions from each State arising from discussion.

Factory Form No. 1.

The Chairman stated that the major change concerning this form was a proposal to take from Form 17 details relating to chemical fertilizers and transfer them to Factory Form No.1. Details relating to soap and candles formerly included in Form 1 were proposed to be transferred to Form 17.

New South Wales stated that this transfer was proposed because there was much cross-production between the items concerned, and proposed that chemical fertilizing works be placed on Form 1, in the space previously occupied by Soap & Candle Works. This proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

Victoria suggested the deletion of the word "value" in connexion with Carcasses treated in Boiling Down Works, because many carcasses were collected and removed at almost no cost, and the value to be shown was therefore negligible. It was useless to endeavour to arrive at an average from the experience obtained. This point was agreed to by Western Australia, who said that in many cases only the value of refuse was given, and there was no segregation between cattle, sheep, horses and pigs.

Queensland suggested that the term "Carcasses treated" be amended to read "Carcasses purchased", but Western Australia said that they were not interested in carcasses at all because the figure was useless and "Carcasses purchased" would refer to value only.

The Chairman stated that from a Commonwealth point of view he had never used these value figures because he did not know what they meant. He was concerned with "materials operated upon" and the total value had been asked for to agree with Item 15 on the other side, which fact had to be borne in mind in this discussion.

It was moved and seconded that the term "carcasses purchased" be adopted in lieu of "carcasses treated". This proposal was carried unanimously.

Queensland suggested that the item "Hair....lb." be added in section I after "Wool Grease" under articles produced in boiling down works, this being a valuable product. This proposal was accepted.

A further proposal was submitted from Queensland, that in the section "Chemical Fertilizer Works" the item "Bone Dust" should be included after "Super Mixtures". The suggestion was agreed to. Queensland also suggested that it was desirable to achieve consistency in the matter of spelling the word "Fertilizer", which was sometimes spelt thus and sometimes "Fertiliser". As the Oxford English Dictionary gave the former spelling it was agreed that this should be adopted.

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to the position arising in connexion with superphosphate, and informed then that as a result of correspondence with the Superphosphate Industry Commission it was not certain what the Commonwealth meant by the term "superphosphate" and what manufacturers meant by it. Figures received from the Superphosphate Industry Commission were compared with those supplied by the States and it was found that there was a good deal of agreement, with the exception of Cresco operating in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. In these States the difference between the figures supplied by the State Statistician was, in the case of Victoria, 13% above, in the case of South Australia, 22% above and in the case of Western Australia, 19% above the sum of the official figures furnished through the Superphosphate Industry Commission. It would appear that the difference could be due to a number of factors and Mr.Kelly suggested it might be due to a different annual period. The Chairman went on to say that The Superphosphate Commission had later advised that a

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neutralizer, agricultural lime, was added to Superphosphate after manufacture and before sale and this would make a difference of approximately 3% between Superphosphate "net made" and Superphosphate "dressed made." Having been previously unaware of this fact, he suggested that this was a matter to be taken up with the Chemical Fertilizer Firms in the respective States and the position ascertained. The Chairman stated that in some cases Superphosphate "net made" was shown and in others, Superphosphate "dressed made" and he believed that the Superphosphate Industry Commission was experiencing the same difficulty. He would, therefore, like the States to check up on the matter; it might involve some further item to describe what is meant by "Superphosphate".

On the suggestion of Western Australia it was agreed that a copy of the twelve-monthly figures for each firm would be circulated by the Commonwealth.

A further proposal by Western Australia was that the words "But inclusive of Commonwealth subsidy" be inserted in footnote (ii) immediately after the word "charges". After discussion it was agreed that the wording be amended by the inclusion of the words "But in the case of chemical fertilizers, inclusive of Government subsidy".

Western Australia went on to propose that the amount of Commonwealth subsidy be given by the informant. It was agreed to add an item to this effect after "Total" under "Articles produced".

Factory Form No.2.

New South Wales proposed that in the case of Tanning Extract (vegetable) the unit of quantity should be tons in the Tanning Section of the form and in the Furriers and Fur Dressing section the unit should be lbs. The proposal was carried unanimously.

New South Wales stated that there was no dissection necessary in the case of "Upholstery Leather...sq.ft.". It was difficult for tanners to dissect the item and the information was not of particular value. It was agreed that this should be adopted. Similarly, it was agreed that "Dressed and Upper Leather from Hides - sold by weight (all kinds)" should be shown as one item.

Western Australia proposed the additional alteration that the words "Value of commission charged for work done" be deleted and "Amount charged for treating and/or making up customers' materials" be inserted in lieu. This was agreed to.

Factory Form No.3.

It was agreed that Factory Form No.36 - Details of Output of Bark Mills - be amalgamated with Form No.3 and Form No.36 dispensed with. South Australia agreed to take special action to meet State requirements by the circulation of a mimeographed Form dealing with Bark Mills. The three items "Bark-Wattle", "Mallet" and "Other" would appear immediately above "Hewn Timber".

New South Wales made a suggestion, which was adopted, that the item "Furniture.....value only" should appear immediately below "Toys" under "other articles produced".

A discussion took place on Boxes and Shooks and it was decided that it was preferable for these items to remain unaltered:-

Boxes, butter, (including shooks) - No;
Cases, fruit, (including shooks) - No;
Other Shooks. - Value only.
All other Boxes, Cases and Crates- Value only.

Queensland stated that only very large Mills, perhaps 1% of all Saw Mills excluding Western Australia, ascribe a value to waste wood, the remainder writing "waste" across the item. It was therefore proposed and agreed that the item "Firewood" be amended to read "Firewood for Sale". The proposal by Western Australia that "Firewood - used in own works" also be added was not acceptable.

A discussion ensued on Logging Operations and Materials Used and it was decided that:-

Item 1 - W.A. Amendments adopted.
Item 2 - Adopted subject to substitution of "your men" for "these men".
Item 3 - "Your own men" in lieu of "the above men".
Item 4 - No alteration.
Item 5 - " "
Item 6 - " "
Item 7 - " "

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Item 8 - Instead of "Cost of other materials used" insert "Total cost of logs and timber received at Mill (Total of items 6 and 7 above)".
Item 9 - To read "Less estimated cost of increase in stocks of logs and purchased timber".
Item 10- To read "Cost of logs and purchased timber operated upon(item 8 minus item 9)".
Item 11- To read "Cost of other materials used. (Nails,Tie Wire, etc.)"
Item 12- To read "Total cost of Raw Materials operated upon (transfer to item 15 of Part 'D' on fron thereof)".

Note:- Delete the words "Transfer Item 9 above to Part D (vi) on the front of this Form".

The above amendments are designed to balance materials costs as shown in the logging section of the back of the form and as shown on the front of the form.

It was also agreed that the note appearing on the front of the form prior to 1946-47, relating to the exclusion of logging operations therefrom, should be re-inserted.

In order to clarify the section of the form dealing with Sawmilling etc., it was decided to make the following amendments:-

(a) In the particulars column, to show two general headings in bold type, viz, (i) Logs sawn in own Mill and (ii) Sawn timber bought and treated in own Mill.
(b) Delete the dissection according to type of timber under "Sawn timber bought and treated etc.".

Factory Form No.4.

New South Wales proposed, and the Conference agreed,that "Sheep and Lambs treated", "Cattle treated","Pigs treated", and "Rabbits", be deleted from the form and that the item "Meat purchased" be amended to read "Meat treated". South Australia said that Rabbits were important in that State and proposed its inclusion under meats treated between "Ox Tongues", and "Other Meat" (the unit should be pairs) and between "Meat and Vegetables (All Kinds)" and "Other", under "Articles Produced" (1b). This was agreed to,together with the other amendments to the individual meats treated, originally submitted. Other items added to the Meat, etc., preserving section by agreement were Coconut oil - refined and unrefined (gal.) and vegetables (cwt) under materials used and fish liver oil (gals.) under articles produced.

In the discussion upon the Bacon-Curing Section of this form, New South Wales said that the use of the present New South Wales form was the only way that State could get results from its Bacon establishments. Queensland said that at the 13th Conference, it was agreed that their own form should be used. Thus, owing to peculiarities in their States, New South Wales and Queensland did not enter the discussion on this section of the form.

Tasmania proposed that on the materials side Pork carried over from previous year and, on the articles produced side, Pork carried over to next year, be added. This was agreed to.

The Conference agreed to a proposal from Western Australia that two items be added to "Articles Produced", viz, :-

(a) Carcasses for export.....lb.
(b) Dripping.....cwt.

South Australia also proposed that "Fertilizers.....cwt." be added after "Small Goods". This proposal was accepted.

It was agreed that no action would be taken to add particulars of stocks of finished bacon and ham at 30th June, as this information was available from the monthly collection.

Factory Form No.5.

The proposals submitted by New South Wales for certain adjustments to the Butter section of this form were discussed in principle. New South Wales stated that the new form was designed to overcome difficulties which had been experienced with the form evolved from the 1945 Conference which had proved to be very confusing to manufacturers. Mr. Walters stated that the item "Milk used" was never filled in in his State, and the item "Butter Fat Content" was only filled in in a few cases, and then not correctly. The position in New South Wales is that milk suppliers are paid on the basis of commercial butter equivalent

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and not butter fat content. The item "Butter used" in the Materials column was most misleading and in some cases manufacturers showed their actual production. Mr Walters insisted that the new form was the only satisfactory method of getting accurate results for New South Wales.

Victoria expressed agreement with some of the amendments proposed in respect of this section, but took the view that "Milk used" should be retained as this was an important item in Victoria; and secondly, that butter fat content should be retained for his State as milk suppliers are paid on this basis.

Queensland expressed agreement with the New South Wales proposals generally, the position in this State being that milk suppliers are paid on the basis of commercial butter equivalent as in New South Wales.

South Australia stated that butter fat content should be retained for all States except New South Wales and Queensland as payment to suppliers was made on this basis in these other States.

Western Australia preferred the old form but agreed to the deletion of minor items suggested. Mr. Purdy stated that the alteration of cost details to read "payment to suppliers" was definitely out of order in Western Australia as this would exclude transport costs to the works where transport was arranged by the butter factory.

Tasmania preferred the old form, subject to the minor deletions suggested.

In the printing of the form for States other than New South Wales it was agreed that the butter section of the form would be the same as that for 1946-47, with the following exceptions:-

(a) On the Materials side "butter used" to be deleted;
(b) On the Articles Produced side "butter made" to be shown as one item, followed by "butter milk sold, ice cream, ice cream mix, casein, ice sold, dried butter milk made";
(c) It was agreed that after "dried butter milk made" the words "Amount received for milk treatment (value only)" should be inserted, thus giving a total to agree with total Part E on the front of the form;
(d) New South Wales would print its form with the deletion of butter fat content and milk used, and would provide slips of this section to Queensland for pasting over the printed forms supplied by the Commonwealth.

In connexion with stocks shown on this form, Queensland stated that there were three different ways in which there were stocks - at factory, in Agents' cold stores and in State cold stores, and all three were given on the forms received. The wording should therefore be amended to read "Stocks on hand at factory". The same remarks would apply in connexion with Cheese. This suggestion was agreed to.

The cheese and cheese processing sections of the form were adopted without amendment.

The section dealing with condensed etc., milks was adopted on the basis of the New South Wales proposals and subject to the other amendments originally submitted.

Factory Form No. 6.

New South Wales proposed that Form 40 - Chaff Cutting - be deleted and the items thereon transferred to Form 6. However, in view of the opinions expressed by other States, it was agreed that Form 40 (to be Form 39 under the new arrangements) be retained to preserve the status quo in all States.

Queensland suggested that "cream of tartar or substitute" be deleted and that an additional item - "phosphate" be added, the unit being lbs. In the matter of unit of quantity, Western Australia disagreed with the proposal to include sugar, and flour in terms of tons, and suggested that States should revert to the original collection of sugar in 70 lb. bags and flour in 150 lb bags in all cases. Stocks of flour should also be collected in 150 lb bags. This suggestion was agreed to. New South Wales will continue to collect in tons.

Queensland suggested that "Starch Reduced Flour" ($1\frac{1}{4}$ lb loaves) should be added to the bakeries section of the Form, but it was decided that this proposal be left over and noted in the Report for further investigation. This applies also to the suggested inclusion of "Buns, fancy bread" with Cakes, etc.

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Queensland further suggested that the item "ammonia" appearing after "dried fruit" in the Bakeries & Biscuits section should be deleted, and this proposal was agreed to. It was also agreed that the unit for wheatmeal used should be amended to 150 lb bags. The item Stocks of Wheat held by bakeries, was deleted.

Tasmania proposed "Self raising flour" be added after "biscuits" in bakery and biscuits section but this was not agreed to.

In the Articles Produced side of the Flour & Other Grain mills section, it was agreed to make the following adjustments:-

(a) Alter "Wheatmeal" to read - "For baking"-"Granulated (Porridge)";
(b) Amend "Breakfast foods" in each case to read "prepared breakfast foods";
(c) Add "Spaghetti" to "Macaroni and Vermicelli";
(d) Add "Starch (edible) (cwt)"after "self-raising flour";
(e) Alter "Starch" to read "Starch (inedible)";
(f) Add "Gluten, Dried" (cwt) after "Starch (inedible)";
(g) Add "Stockmeal" after Glucose.

Factory Form No. 7.

The proposal to amend the quantity units in respect of sugar and flour to tons was rejected and it was decided to continue to collect details respecting these items in 70 lb bags and 150 lb bags respectively for States other than New South Wales.

Western Australia's proposal to delete reference to fruit and tomato pulp consumed in own works both in respect of Materials and Articles Produced was not agreed to.

The items "Peanuts (shelled)" and "Peanuts (unshelled)" were amended to read "Peanuts (in shell)" and "Peanut Kernels". It was decided to retain the dissection of barley and wheaten malt used. The proposals to delete Cabbage, Carrots and Parsnips under Dehydrated Vegetables and to include Grape under Fruit Juices, Natural, were agreed to. The transfer of the item Tomato Juice to follow immediately after Fruit Juices, Natural was adopted. The Conference also agreed to include a new item after Dehydrated Vegetables to read "Potato Crisps, Chips, Flakes, etc." and decided that this item be included in Class 9, Sub-class 29.

The Western Australian proposal that the estimated amount of Commonwealth Subsidy included in the total output be asked for on this form was not agreed to.

The Chairman indicated to Conference that a comparison of statistics of pie apple and apple sauce production collected on these forms with details collected monthly by Food Control suggested that some modification of the items shown on the form was necessary to ensure the proper dissection of details as between the "solid pack" and "crushed apple". The following Commonwealth proposal was adopted:-

(a) In lieu of "pie apple" insert the following -
Apples, preserved -
solpack (pie apple)
crushed or sieved apple (apple sauce).
(b) Delete the item "apple sauce" following "jams, conserves, etc."

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Factory Form No.8.

The Conference decided to retain the quantity unit for sugar of 70 lb bags for States other than New South Wales. The Western Australian proposal that the values of individual items of output in respect of aerated waters, etc., be deleted was not favoured by other States, and no action was taken. Similarly, Western Australia's proposal that fruit pulp used be recorded in gallons in lieu of cwt was not acceptable. No action was taken on the proposal to include an item in respect of capacity of refrigerating space. The remaining additions and amendments originally circulated were adopted, together with the alteration to show "Aerated and Carbonated waters (including ginger and hop beer, etc.) as one item.

Factory Form No. 9.

Western Australia requested the inclusion of items - "Beer in Process at the Beginning of the Year" under Materials Used and "Beer in Process at the End of the Year" under Articles Produced as was agreed to at the 1945 Conference. New South Wales and Queensland expressed the view that the matter of inclusion of items of this nature in factory forms was left in abeyance at the 1945 Conference for further investigation and disfavoured

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inclusion of such items at this juncture. The remaining States generally supported this view, and consequently the Conference decided to take no action.

The Conference discussed in general terms the question of difficulty in allocating distribution costs of beer and spirits as outlined by the Queensland representative.

It was agreed to retain the unit of 70 lb bags for sugar. The proposals to delete carbon-dioxide under Breweries and the dissection of fortified wine into "eligible for Bounty" and "non-eligible for Bounty" were adopted. In connexion with spirits distilled, the Conference decided to rearrange the items of output to read as follows:-

Spirits Distilled -

Non Potable -

		Proof Gal.
Spirits for Wine Fortifying - Own Use,		.....
	For Sale,	.....
Methylated Spirits	(Liquid gal.....)	.....
Power Alcohol	(Liquid gal.....)	.....
White Spirit	(Liquid gal.....)	.....
Other	(Liquid gal.....)	.....

Potable -

Brandy	.....
Rum	.....
Whisky	.....
Gin	.....
Other	.....

Factory Form No.10.

No alterations.

Factory Form No. 11.

The proposal submitted by Victoria for amendments to the Cement Works and Cement Goods section of the form, necessary for the inclusion of details of "asbestos cement goods", was adopted as to set-up.

Discussion ensued on detailed amendments proposed to the various sections of the form. It was agreed that the words "(Show number burnt. Exclude Green Bricks)" should be added after bricks. South Australia submitted that under Plaster and Plaster Sheet Works in articles produced section, after "Building and Roofing Material with paper or felt base" add "Mouldings, value only". It was agreed, however, that Mouldings be included with "Other Plaster Goods (including Mouldings); value only."

It was agreed that the words "Consumed in Own Works" after "Plaster of Paris" be deleted, and that this be amended to read as one item - "Plaster of Paris (For sale or addition to stocks)".

Victoria suggested the inclusion of "Sand, cubic yds." in Cement and Asbestos Cement Goods section and stated that the matter of Sand was a very important question. Dr. Rankin specialised in obtaining as many particulars about sand as possible and for this reason Victoria would especially like to see it included here. The chairman said that sand was of equal importance as coke breeze and important from a mineral statistics point of view. Western Australia stated that sand was one of the largest items used, in quantity, but that it was this matter of quantity which was likely to cause trouble. The Works were usually situated near a dump of sand and the quantity used was not usually measured. Victoria's suggestion was agreed to.

No action was taken to dissect Cement to show "Portland Cement" and "other" as materials used in the Cement and asbestos-cement goods section, as proposed by Western Australia.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the various items of output in the Cement and asbestos-cement goods section of the form be amended and re-arranged to read as follows:-

Asbestos-Cement Building Sheets -		
Flat (Surface measurement)		sq.yds
Corrugated(Finished size) -	Standard	sq.yds
	Deep 6"	sq.yds
Asbestos-Cement pipes		value only
Other Asbestos-Cement products		value only
Cement bricks		thousand
Cement Tiles		No.
Concrete, Ready mixed		cubic yds
Concrete Pipes		value only
Other Cement and Concrete goods		value only

It was agreed that all other items, which would include "Concrete Telephone Jointing Boxes, Incinerators, Box Culverts, etc., would be deleted. It was decided not to add asbestos insulating sheets as suggested by South Australia.

Tasmania suggested the inclusion of pre-cast sections of houses and said that this was a development in the building industry which it might be desirable to include as an additional item. After discussion upon this subject it was agreed that although this would probably be an important item in the future it might be desirable to await further developments before adopting its inclusion.

It was agreed that no action be taken regarding the inclusion of an item to obtain particulars of Quarry and Pit operations, referred to at the 1945 Conference.

Factory Form No.12.

Victoria proposed that upon the Materials side "Soap Substitutes..... cwt" be included in Fellmongeries and Woolscouring Works sections, but after discussion it was agreed that the matter should be deferred for further investigation by the States.

It was proposed by Western Australia that the Fellmongeries section on the Articles Produced side be amended by the inclusion of "Greasy Wool (pulled only)". After discussion, it was agreed that the Western Australia proposal be withdrawn and that Greasy Wool obtained be amended to read "Greasy or Slipe Wool obtained lb".

The Weaving section of the form was then discussed and it was agreed that under Yarn, "Wool and Cotton" be added after "Cotton, Mercerized" and "Rayon Yarn" added after "Silk".

Western Australia had certain proposals to make regarding commission work which after discussion were modified and it was agreed that on the right-hand side the words "Greasy or Slipe Wool obtained....lb" should be added, bracketed with scoured wool and pelts obtained; and that the quantity and value particulars for "Soap Used" would appear in the same position as quantity details for other materials.

Factory Form No.13.

The only amendment suggested was that the words "Sulphuric Acid" should be immediately followed by "(100%)". This was carried unanimously.

Factory Form No.14.

The Chairman said that the first duty of the Conference was to adopt the principle, i.e. "Set-up" of this form. This matter was discussed and all States were in agreement with the exception of Victoria who said that no benefit was visible from this change. The set-up of the form was adopted, Victoria dissenting.

Regarding the detail of the form, Western Australia suggested that the item, "Cycles Made" be amended to read "Cycles Built" and this suggestion was agreed to.

Queensland stated that the State Statistician had particularly requested that a point be raised concerning the Motor Vehicle section. It was desirable that the whole of the assembly as far as "Imported Chassis, etc", be deleted altogether because it was known from trade statistics how many were imported, and from registrations how many vehicles were put on the road. The number of chassis assembled was, in the opinion of the State Statistician for Queensland, unnecessary. It was agreed that the five lines commencing with the item "Imported Car....quantity only" be deleted and that the words "Local manufacture" be added in parenthesis after "Engines Assembled" in the Motor Cycles section. The Victorian proposal to add "Grease Guns" and "Nipples and Nozzles" under Motor Accessories and Parts was not agreed to.

The form originally circulated, subject to the adjustments listed above was adopted.

Factory Form No.15.

The Chairman asked New South Wales to comment upon this form, and in reply it was stated that Factory Form No.15 had been designed to embody old Forms Nos. 15, 20, 21, 42 and 43, and eliminate, so far as possible,

(h) Agricultural Implements and Machines. Add in the heading after "footnote (ii)" the words "concerning assembly". Transfer "scarifiers" to follow "harrows" under tillage. After "windmills (complete)" add "windmills - Towers...value only, Engines....value only, Parts....value only". Alter "fertiliser" to read "fertilizer" and use this spelling in all forms.

(i) Miscellaneous. Add "metal badges - value only" and "steel safes and doors - value only".

Conference discussed footnote(ii) and it was explained by the Chairman that the proposed wording was intended to avoid duplication where parts of agricultural implements were manufactured in one State and assembled in another. The wording in the footnote was adopted, but Victoria agreed to examine the matter to ensure that details of parts made in that State were not shown as complete implements.

Discussion ensued on the final note on the form and as it was felt that there was a danger of it being overlooked it was agreed that it should be printed in bold capitals. It was also decided to add the word "other" before the word "items".

Factory Form No.16.

The two following additions to Glass Works (Including Bottles) were proposed and agreed to:-

"Optical Glass.....value only".
"Scientific Glassware....value only",

following "safety glass".

The suggested inclusion of Mirrors by Victoria was not adopted.

No adjustment was made to the matches section.

In the Oils Vegetable, (including Oil Cake)section, the following alterations were agreed to:-

(a) In lieu of "peanuts (unshelled)", insert - Peanuts (in shell)
Peanut kernels.

(b) On articles produced side, Queensland desired the addition of Waxes...tons" because there was a new development in Queensland making wax from sugar cane waste products and this was a great success. Waxes for floor polish were being produced, and the industry was expected to expand. The item "Wax....tons" was therefore agreed to.

Other additional items incorporated in the form circulated were adopted.

It was decided to take no action to make provision in Form 16 to obtain particulars regarding the digging and transport of materials to the factory, as proposed by Western Australia.

Factory Form No. 17.

This form was introduced by New South Wales, who stated the desirability of collecting relevant information on one form, as in the case of Form 15, instead of several. The principle was again opposed by Victoria and accepted by all other States.

The Chairman then mentioned the matter of unit in which flour was collected, and said that this was a subject of great importance, not only to the Statisticians, but to the industries themselves, and that it was essential to get the correct trade unit of measurement. On all other forms the unit for flour was, except in the case of New South Wales, 150 lb bags. After discussion it was agreed that as far as this form was concerned, flour be added, unit - tons, and that the unit for sugar should be tons and not cwts.

Conference examined each item individually as shown on the specimen form circulated and made a number of deletions of items for which little or no production was recorded in 1945/46 but added to the specimen form certain items which were included in the relevant 1945/46 factory forms and for which significant production was recorded.

The item "face cream" in pharmaceutical and toilet products was expanded to read as follows:-

"Creams and Lotions -
Face Creams,
Hand Lotions,
Other Skin Creams

11/.....

The following items were added:- 11.

"Hair Preparations -
Fixatives (all kinds),
Shampoos,
Tonics. "

A statement was received by Conference from the Victorian Statist's office, concerning production by one of the principal manufacturers in this field during 1945-46 and it was decided to add such items of importance from this list as could be accommodated in the form.

Factory Form No.18.

It was agreed that in White Lead, Paints & Varnish section, materials used side, "Flour" should be inserted above "Other Materials n.e.i." in unit of tons of 2,000 lbs.

Victoria's suggestion that Nitro Cellulose should appear in terms of cwt. instead of galls. was adopted.

It was agreed to show Water Paints and Kalsomine as two separate items as before. The item "Oil and Ready Mixed" should be amended to read "Oil (Ready Mixed)".

It was agreed that the Inks, Polishes, Cleansers, Adhesives, etc., section should be adopted, with the addition of unit of lb for inks, and the words "and Vermin Sprays" following "Insecticides".

It was decided to retain the items "Can Lining Compounds" and Fluxes".

Factory Form No. 19.

In the Boot and Shoe section it was agreed that the word "leather" after boots and shoes and the item "Boots and Shoes other than Leather" should be deleted. This would mean alteration of these details to read -

Boots - Men's
Women's
Children's (up to and including size 2)
Shoes - Men's
Women's
Children's (up to and including size 2)
Sandals - Men's
Women's
Children's (up to and including size 2)

Under Saddlery, etc., it was agreed to add "Handbags (ladies) Plastic", and to delete "S" from "fabrics" under gloves.

Factory Form No. 20.

Mr. Walters stated that the new form proposed had been drafted on the basis of the U.S. Standard Commodity Classification as used by the U.S. Production Board, and had been discussed with some of the principal manufacturers in N.S.W. The main change involved was to arrange materials according to type in lieu of attempting to specify individual items.

After discussion it was agreed to adopt the new form as circulated subject to the following additions under articles produced:-

Baths - No. - at beginning
Garden Hose - ft. - after electrical goods, etc.
Sinks - No. } after Sheets, Plates
Slide Fasteners - value only } etc.

Factory Form No.21.

Western Australia proposed an amendment to the front of the form (Part D, item 14A) but the Chairman ruled that it was outside the province of the Conference so to act.

Western Australia's proposal to amend the heading of the form to read "motor vehicle repair workshops" was agreed to. Conference decided not to include details of assembly of chassis under Articles Produced, as suggested by Western Australia.

Factory Form No.22.

The Victorian form as circulated was adopted subject to the following:-

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Factory Form No. 22.

The Victorian form as circulated was adopted subject to the following:-

(a) Amend "Rayon Staple" to read "Rayon Yarn"and retain as one item under materials used

(b) Delete "Rayon Yarn" and "Other Yarn" under articles produced.

It was decided to defer action to add details of machinery used in this industry pending investigation by all States.

Factory Form No. 23.

No alterations were proposed regarding the Cotton Ginneries and Cotton, Carding and Spinning sections of the form.

The cotton weaving section was adopted with the amendments circulated and the deletion of "(unmercerized)" after "Cotton" under materials used.

A proposal from Victoria that the items of output in cotton weaving be printed in alphabetical order in sub-sections, grouping all piece goods together was not adopted.

Factory Form No. 24.

Materials operated upon section was amended by the addition of "woollen and rayon yarn.....lb," following"wool and cotton."

No alterations were proposed to the stockings and socks section

The amendments circulated in respect of the knitted apparel section were agreed to and in addition it was decided to delete "or predominantly wool" after "wool" in each sub-section and insert the words "of or predominantly of the material mentioned" immediately after "knitted apparel".

Factory Form No. 25.

It was agreed that the heading "Stays & Corsets" be amended to read "Foundation Garments".

Victoria suggested that in the Hats and Caps section the following additions be made to materials operated upon:-

1. Trimmings.....value only.
2. Other Materials....value only.

After discussion, however, it was agreed that this proposal be withdrawn. The suggestion to insert "pieces" in lieu of "lb" for "Straw Braid" was agreed upon.

The Commonwealth proposal that consideration might be given to dissecting Hoods and Capelines used and produced for sale to show separately - "Men's and Boy's" and "Women's and Girls'" was not considered practicable.

Factory Form No. 26.

Western Australia suggested that the heading be shortened to read "Furniture, Perambulators, Bedding, Blinds and Musical Instruments, etc.". This suggestion was adopted.

No alterations were proposed to the Basketware section.

It was agreed that Perambulator parts be qualified by the addition of the words "for sale as such".

It was agreed that the items under cabinet making, etc., be rearranged and amended to read as follows:-

Billiard Tables.....No.
Cots.....No.
Ice Chests - Wood - Metal Lined - No.
All Metal.....No.

Furniture - Other..value only
Joinery.....value only
Picture and Mirror
Frames.....value only
Wireless Cabinets - Wood...No.
Plastic..No.
Wireless Sets Assembled (Complete with Chassis)...No.
Toys.....value only.

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It was agreed that mattresses be divided into five groups, viz:-

Mattresses woven wire,
" link mesh,
" spring,
" inner spring,
" soft filled and other.

The proposal by Tasmania to add "flock-lbs." after "quilts" was also adopted, and similarly the deletion of pillows and other bedding.

South Australia proposed that Venetian blinds be sub-divided into two groups - wooden and metal. This was agreed to.

The Musical Instruments section is to remain unaltered.

Under Wall & Ceiling Board it was agreed that "In sheets" and "In Rolls" should be deleted.

Factory Form No. 27.

It was agreed that the first item on the materials operated upon side in Pulp Mills section should be "Pulp used, imported....tons, Australian manufacture", as shown in the specimen form circulated.

It was agreed that after "Sulphuric Acid" should appear the words terms of 100%".

It was also agreed that Paper Mills be amended by the sub-division of Other Boards" into four groups, viz:- Straw, Carton, Coated, Other, the unit being tons in each case.

In the paper products section, New South Wales suggested that Inks and Other Materials be shown as one item, value only, and this was agreed to. Other amendments agreed to were to show value only for "other" paper used, the addition of the words "and cartons" after "Cardboard Boxes", the addition of "Greeting Cards", value only, after "exercise books, etc", "Cellulose Acetate Film Bags and Packets - value only" before other articles, and "Toilet paper - value only" and "Lunch Wraps - value only" after "Fruit wrapping pads".

Under "Pencils, Crayons etc", it was agreed to add "Slate pencils - gross" after "Chalks".

Factory Form No. 28.

This form was adopted subject to the amendments incorporated in the specimen circulated and the addition of the words "and carpeting" after "carpets" under articles produced.

Factory Form No. 29.

No adjustment was proposed to the sugar mills section.

In connexion with sugar refineries, it was suggested that Golden Syrup and Treacle should be combined as one item, but the Chairman stated that this matter should be left for the Commonwealth to settle, in the light of correspondence with the C.S.R., and if their recommendation was that these two items should be almalgamated, he assumed that there was no objection to this being done. Conference agreed to this course.

While dealing with this Form, the Chairman requested that representatives later examine the correspondence between the Commonwealth Statistician and C.S.R. on the matter of concealment of confidential information. He further stated that the C.S.R. had no objection to the publication of details of numbers of factories and employment in the various categories, and that details of materials used, quantity and value, and articles produced, could also be published for the Commonwealth but confirmation that these details could be published on a State basis as needed. It was not possible, however, to give details of salaries, wages and costs.

Regarding the Salt Works section, it was moved and seconded that the data now given be adopted without amendment and that further investigation regarding salt gathering and treatment be made with a view to improvement of the form at the next Conference.

Concerning the section dealing with confectionery, cocoa, ice cream, it was agreed that sugar and flour units should revert to 70 lb and 150 lb bags, as previously, for States other than New South Wales. In addition, the only amendment on the materials side was that "Milk Concentrated, Whole", should be included - unit "cwt". The Queensland representative agreed to make enquiries as to what invert sugar and invert syrup and sugar jelly represented and to advise all States of his findings. Under articles produced, South Australia proposed that after "Candied Peel and

Preserved Peel", "Biscuits....lb" should be added, but after discussion it was agreed that this item should appear between "Ice Cream Mix" and "Ice Cream Cones, etc." Ice Blocks would be deleted.

In the tobacco section, it was agreed that Insecticides should be included as one item, value only, and that powdered and liquid insecticides should be deleted.

Factory Form No. 30.

Queensland suggested that on Materials side, rubber should appear as "Rubber, Crude" and "Rubber, Synthetic", unit of quantity being lb. This was agreed upon.

On Articles Produced side it was agreed that rubber boots, wading - knee, and Other be collected under "All kinds" as one item.

It was agreed that "Rubber Soles and Heels" should be followed by the words "for sale as such".

It was agreed that under tyres, pneumatic, should appear "Car and Motor Cycle, Truck and Omnibus, Tractor, Aero, Bicycle and Other". This is to be followed by "Tyres solid" etc. and Tubes, pneumatic are to be classified in the same way as Tyres, pneumatic.

The Conference agreed to a proposal from Queensland that "Clothes Pegs, rubber...gross" be inserted after "Belting" (under rubber). Other amendments agreed to were to show "Tyres retreaded and recapped - no." as one item; to amend "other repairs" to read "other tyre and tube repairs"; to add the word "(waterproof)" after garment; to delete "rubber balls" and to add "Sporting goods, n.e.i." before "other articles".

Factory Form No. 31.

No alteration was proposed.

Factory Form Nos. 32, and 33.

With the exception of Queensland, all States agreed with the principle of combining two form numbers as above. This was designed to preserve uniformity of numbering with New South Wales, who have two separate forms.

In regard to the Steel Furnace section (form 32), it was agreed that "Own Production" under "Scrap Iron and Steel used" should be substituted in lieu of "Produced in works reporting" and that "value only" should appear after "Electrodes". The unit in respect of Fire Bricks would remain as "number".

No proposals were submitted in respect of steel produced or steel and rolling mill products.

Factory Form No. 34.

It was agreed that, in the Brooms and Brushes section, "Bristles" be sub-divided into "Natural" and "Synthetic", and that "Coir Mats" (unit - number) and "Coir Matting (value only)" be collected as separate items.

It was agreed that "(Including Dolls)" be added in Toys, Games and Sports Requisites section after the item "Toys" and that the remaining items in this section would be re-arranged to read as follows:-

Games
Sports Requisites -
Balls, cricket
" tennis
" golf
" other - leather
" " - rubber
" " - composition
Tennis Racquet frames
Golf Clubs
Cricket bats
Hockey Sticks
Bowls
Fishing appliances - Reels
" " - Rods
" " - Other
Other.

Regarding the Linoleum, Leathercloth, Oilcloth, etc., section, the New South Wales representative stated that he would explore the position and make known the results of his enquiries regarding total output and saleable output of linoleum. In the meantime Conference agreed not to alter the form to qualify this item. It was agreed to add the items "Asphalted Felt Base Floor covering - sq. yds" and Asphalt Floor Tiles - sq. yds" to this Section.

The addition of the item "Cameras - No." in the Surgical etc. Instruments section was agreed to.

Factory Form No. 35.

No amendments were proposed to this form.

Factory Form No. 36.

Western Australia proposed that the old form numbers be retained for this form and the Electricity Undertakings Form and that Flax Mills be altered to No.36, thus reducing changes in form numbers from three to one. However, as this would leave a gap in New South Wales, who have no flax mills, it was decided to adopt the new numbering as originally proposed.

Western Australia also proposed that "quantity only" should be deleted in respect of coke and tar used in own works, as Gas Works always value these items. It was necessary to include these values in output, as a contra-entry to figures shown on the front of the form. A motion was moved to this effect and was seconded by New South Wales but all other States voted against it and the motion was lost. In the light of the comments by the States on this matter, the Chairman undertook to examine the work done by the Commonwealth in analysing the consumption of coke in industry.

Factory Form No. 37.

It was agreed that the item "Electricity Purchased" in the "Costs of Generation and/or Purchase" section, be transferred below "Total of Above Costs".

Queensland stated that it was intended to move at the next full Conference that Electricity and Gas be taken out of general Factory statistics altogether, as it should be treated as a separate branch of Statistics; and that it was the intention to submit a draft of a special form to cover both these industries.

The Chairman suggested that details of output of electric energy in two groups - one in power-driven and one in hydro-driven, be published annually. It was then agreed by all States that the Commonwealth would be supplied with a separate return giving details for hydro-electric power stations in each State, commencing in 1946-47.

Factory Form No. 38.

The Chairman mentioned that New South Wales and Queensland would not be concerned with discussion on this form, as there were no Flax Mills in those States. It was agreed that in Section 1 - Deseeding, after "Chaff" should be included "Refuse and solvens waste.....tons".

In section 3, 'Scutching , "And Pluckings" should be added after "Tow".

Factory Form No. 39.

It was agreed that Chaffcutting and Corncrushing should not appear on Factory Form No.6 but be included on a separate form as previously, the number being changed from 40 to 39.

This concluded Item 4 on the Agenda and it was agreed that the list of Forms and the Industries to which they refer should be included as an addendum to the report which would be prepared by Conference for the information of Statisticians.

A debate ensued relating to the methods of distribution of Factory Forms. It was stated that in Queensland (as from 1946-47) and Tasmania this was done by post; in South Australia Metropolitan forms were distributed by post and the remainder by the Police; in Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria distribution was carried out solely by the Police.

Preparation of Lists of Individual Industries Included in Each Industry Class.

It was agreed that New South Wales would prepare a revised statement and circulate it to other States who would use this as a basis for compiling lists for their own States. When lists have been submitted by all

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States, the Commonwealth will prepare a comprehensive statement for Australia as a whole.

Alterations to Instructions Arising out of agreed alterations to Factory Forms.

It would be necessary to add a special instruction regarding Saw Mills in the case of Tasmania.

Victoria agreed to submit a draft to the Commonwealth for the alteration of introductory paragraphs. The proposal by this State that in clause 15 (b) of the Instructions, the second sentence should end after "Cost of Materials used"; i.e. "while the full selling value..... value of output" will be deleted.

Item 5 (iii) - Statistics of Wine Production.

Conference discussed in general terms recent correspondence arising from a request from the Federal Viticultural Council for more detailed information on production and stocks of wine.

It was agreed that it was difficult to put a value on wines and the Chairman stated that it was a difficult proposition to attempt any collection of wine stocks outside Wineries and that he supported a collection of stocks held by Wineries only. South Australia stated that Major Powell had stated that details of wineries' stocks only were useless for his purpose.

The Chairman said that Victoria made an annual collection, covering stocks held in a number of ways, and has done so for many years although it was in abeyance at present. He then went on to read the resolution at the Conference of Statisticians in Perth in 1926 when it was decided that stocks held by small vignerons be ignored.

It was agreed that no action would be taken to amend the Factory Form in connexion with this matter.

Item 5 (ii) - U.N.O. International Standard Industrial Classification.

At this point the Chairman called upon Mr. Archer to speak and said that he had recently attended a Congress in Washington dealing with this subject.

Mr. Archer began by saying that he hoped to talk briefly on two topics, one of which was not included in the Agenda. A letter had been sent to the State Statisticians on the 19th of September asking for preliminary consideration to be given to this report of the Committee on the Industrial Classification, and a reply had to be submitted to reach U.N.O. before the 1st of February. The Statistical Commission of the United Nations had set up a sub-committee of experts, the representative for the United States being Mr. Kolesnikoff, for Canada - Mr. McKellar and for the British Central Statistical Office - Mr. Beale. Other people passing through Washington had also been consulted. The proposal was that the classification should be used for all statistical purposes and to remove certain objections to the classification it was drawn up with two objects in view; firstly, to depart as little as possible from the League of Nations' 1938 classification and secondly, to provide adequately for collections based on establishment reporting and thus remove any vital objections from those having to classify factories. The preliminary draft had been considered by the Statistical Commission and they had submitted the classification in its present form for consideration by all member nations.

Part one dealt with Introduction, etc; Part two - Summary of Classification into Divisions and Major Groups; Part three - Detailed classification, including types of industries to be included in each group. Mr. Archer went on to say that a classified list of industries would be prepared before final decision was made, and that at the moment it was not possible to deal with the subject in very great detail.

Some of the main alterations proposed in the suggested classification were as follows:- (1) Chaffcutting was not regarded as a manufacturing activity and had been classified under agriculture etc. (2) Heat, Light and Power was another difficult item, especially in Census and this had been grouped separately, production and Supply being included under one industry; It was proposed not to regard it as a factory. (3) Minting was to be classified as a Government service and not as a factory. (4) Blue-Printing and Ticket Writing were to be classified as one of the Business Commercial Services.

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5) Photographic studios would be classified under Personal Service and not as a Manufacturing Industry, and this would also apply to Film Developing and Printing. (6) Regarding Knitting Mills, Mr. Archer stated that the United Nations proposed classification agreed with the present Factory classification, but that the Census classification and Canadian Census classification included these with "Clothing" and it was likely that Canada would press for an amendment to agree with their Census classification. (7) Wool Scouring and Fellmongering were included with Textiles under a general heading of "Woollen Mills" instead of with Tanneries", etc; (8) Linoleum and Leather Cloth were also included under the Textile group. (9) Furriers and Fur Dressing were to be included with Cloth, (10) Bedding, Mattresses and Canvas goods were also to be included under Clothing. (11) Charcoal Burning and Corks were to be included with Manufactures of Wood & Cork Articles. (12) Power Alcohol was to be included with Chemicals. (13) Petrol Refiners were to be grouped in a separate class - Manufacture of Products with Petroleum and Coal. (14) Platinum Refining was to be included in Extraction and Refining of non-Ferrous Metals. (15) Repair of Motor Vehicles and Cycles - the present Census classification included these with Transport Group, but the United Nations included them in Manufacture of Transportation Equipment. (16) The Scientific Group had been deleted and the items transferred to Miscellaneous Group. (17) The following items were also transferred to the Miscellaneous Group:- Toys, Games & Sports Requisites, Button & Buckles, Brooms & Brushes, Artificial Flowers, Pencils, Paints, etc., and Other Manufacture. (18) So far as it had been possible to trace, Plastics had not been fully covered but New South Wales drew his attention to Group 310 which makes provision for those manufacturing Chemical products to be used in further manufacture such as synthetic fibres, plastic materials and elastomers. Manufacture of plastic clothing and other plastic goods were apparently to be classified under the appropriate groups such as Clothing, etc.

These were the main headings which differed from the present factory classifications; the groups had been re-arranged, so that the present factory order would necessarily have to be re-orientated completely in order to get uniformity, and it was desirable to achieve international uniformity if that were possible. It would help the Bureau to have an expression of opinion from Statisticians in time to draft a reply to the Statistical Commission before the 1st February. Mr. Archer stated that he would be writing to the Statisticians in the near future, sending them the final draft and asking for their consideration thereon.

Mr. Archer then proceeded to the second point which was not on the agenda. The Conference of Statisticians in 1945 resolved that at a further Conference to be held in 1946 to consider the suggestion introduced by Mr. Clark for defining and limiting factory definition to four hands or more and/or using power above a limit to be fixed. It had not been possible to arrange such a conference due to the change-over consequent upon Dr. Wilson's return and the dislocation caused by staff shortages, etc., but the Director of Research, Mr. Brown, had authorised Mr. Archer to mention the proposition which he had submitted to Mr. Carver unofficially, viz. - instead of restricting the factory list to users of power above a certain minimum and/or employing a certain number of hands, that it should be limited to those with an annual pay-roll of £1,040 or more. At the present rate of salaries this would mean that all firms employing four hands or more, except in a few industries, would come under that classification and by the use of the pay-roll list it would be possible to check new-comers in each field of industry and there would be great advantages accruing by adopting this definition. It was almost certain that this suggestion would be submitted to a Conference of Statisticians which would probably be held next year. It was therefore desirable that this matter should be considered from the point of view of its effect upon the position as against a power minimum. Some consideration would also have to be given to the relatively few factories composed entirely of owner-proprietors. It was possible that new ventures comprising six or seven people, united in partnership, might arise, and it could be questioned whether they would amount to anything in the main.

South Australia asked whether there was any talk of the basic definition of a factory and Mr. Archer replied that there was no definition of a factory but referred to page five, General Principles ('B' and 'C') which were of interest.

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South Australia then enquired whether there would be a standard definition for factories throughout the World or whether each country would submit its own and was informed that the latter would be the case.

The Chairman then pointed out that under Resolution 6 (c) it was agreed that Chaffcutting and Corncrushing should be excluded from the factory statistics, but he would like to mention the additional item of abattoirs. There was a distinct division of opinion as to whether an abattoir was a factory and it had been determined by the Statisticians at a previous conference that an abattoir unassociated with the canning of meat should be excluded. Bottling and Charcoal-Burning would definitely be excluded, whilst Slaughtering and Refrigeration were subject to exclusion by Resolution 6 (c), if implemented. These items should be borne in mind when the matter of implementing any action was decided upon concerning the International Standard Industrial Classification.

The Chairman asked Mr. Archer if he knew from his experience the reaction of some of the major countries as regards the attempt by the old League of Nations to introduce a uniform classification, and was informed that the Statistical Commission was getting good support. It had a strong Chairman in the person of Mr. Herbert Marshall who was expanding the representation on the Statistical Commission by the formation of specialist committees, and had a reasonable chance of getting these adopted.

Item 6 (iii) Resolution No. 12 of 1945 - Notice of Change in Factory Forms.

The Chairman stated that he thought that this was impracticable, and Mr. Archer stated that he had raised the point in the United States and Canada and the same decision had been reached. The States indicated that no action would be taken.

Item 6 (ii) Output of Hats and Caps - Aggregation of details for Hat and Cap and Millinery Establishments.

Mr. Walker stated that it had been difficult to attempt this aggregation owing to problems which developed in different States. So far as New South Wales was concerned, an endeavour to get hat production would involve the addition of output in hat and cap factories and millinery establishments, but in addition it would be necessary to take into account hoods and capelines produced for sale outside those establishments. New South Wales enquired what was meant by "hoods and capelines produced for sale outside the industry" and in reply, Mr. Walker said that a figure was shown in hat and cap factories for hoods and capelines used and also hoods and capelines produced for sale. It was assumed that to arrive at the total quantity of hoods and capelines produced for sale outside these factories, it would be necessary to deduct the materials used figure from the quantity recorded as being produced for sale.

Mr. Walters indicated that as far as New South Wales was concerned, details of hats (wool and fur felt) made in hat and cap factories should be adopted but for all other hats, recorded output in millinery establishments should be added.

Mr. Collins agreed to investigate the classification of millinery establishments in Victoria in the light of the view expressed by other States that establishments producing hoods and capelines for sale should not be so classified.

Item 6 (i) Comparison of Monthly & Annual Statistics.

Mr. Walker stated that a comparison of the results of the monthly collection of the various food items in relation to the annual factory collection for 1945-46 had been made, and it was intended to refer the tabulated figures to the Statisticians in the near future for such examination as was necessary. In the work done in examination of these forms, several minor suggestions had been made regarding food items, originating from the comparison of the figures, and the lack of alignment had suggested that some modification of the annual forms might be advantageous. Regarding the bulk of the commodities, the figures were reasonably close in all States, but in some cases there were differences. New South Wales had mentioned one group in particular, viz. - Processed Milk Products. Mr. Walker stated that the figures obtained on a State basis included an estimate for a part of the year of a split-up of the Commonwealth figure. In other cases

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there were apparent explanations, such as different bases of collection, etc., for variations in the figures. However, the Commonwealth felt that there should be some benefit derived from making any examination which might be necessary to explain the differences which occurred.

Several States explained that differences would arise because annual figures did not always cover the year ended June, e.g. - C.S.R. returns related to the year ended 31st March. Queensland stated at this point that factories did not always have monthly figures to offer. For example, in the case of bacon factories, there was one firm which could give no figure before the 15th of the following month, and then only an estimate, because they did not total their bacon output at that stage. At the end of the year there was a discrepancy of perhaps 15%. This must apply to a considerable number of commodities, and a certain margin of error must therefore be allowed. The Chairman stated that it was not intended that the monthly figures be as accurate as the annual figures, but he was anxious that the sum of the monthly figures should tell a reliable story; having obtained the annual figures, the monthly figures should be adjusted or dispensed with. In reply to a remark by New South Wales that the fault in adjustment was that it was not known exactly where the disparity occurred, the Chairman replied that adjustment was made over the whole period, where the difference was appreciable.

Using refrigerators as an example, New South Wales said that there may be, for instance, six manufacturers of refrigerators who gave the actual production of refrigerators monthly, each producing one thousand per month. When the annual return was completed it might be found that the monthly collection was three thousand refrigerators understated because an additional firm, of which nothing had been known, had come into operation during the last three months of the year. If adjustment was made as proposed a wrong monthly figure would be obtained. The Chairman said that in regard to foods produced on a seasonal basis, the disparity was not distributed evenly, but in the ratio of recorded monthly output.

The Chairman went on to say that regarding food items, a statement would be prepared showing the comparison of the annual figureswith the monthly figures, and he would be glad to have advice from States as to the reason for any disparity. A discrepancy of 5% would not be regarded as serious, in fact it was quite a remarkable achievement.

New South Wales raised the question of the confidential nature of information supplied under the respective Acts, stating that the returns were said to be confidential and under strict secrecy, but that information was passed on to Canberra and many firms disliked this. In one instance the Managing Director of a very large firm had asked for a very strong assurance that under no circumstances whatever would anyone other than that particular statistical office, not even Canberra, see the individual figures on his return. If this assurance had been requested on oath there would have been no alternative but to admit that this information was submitted to Canberra.

The Chairman and Mr. Stewart of the Commonwealth Bureau, stated that any information concerning individual firms which may be passed on by the States is treated as confidential in the Commonwealth Bureau in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Census and Statistics Act.

The Victorian representative made the point that a present clause in the general instructions specifically stated that information from individual returns would not be divulged to anyone outside the State offices and that, as far as his State was concerned, this instruction needed adjustment.

The Chairman stated that he wished to point out the objective aimed at in the collection of monthly statistics. If the States required production statistics of items for 1946-47 they could refer to their figures or soon get an indication of the probable figures. The Commonwealth would not obtain this information before the following May or June and it was most difficult in supplying an answer to the enquirers who gave this information individually to the States and eventually to the Commonwealth Statistician to have to say that it would not be available until May or June 1948. Dr. Wilson had probably had this in mind when referring to the difficult position prevailing in lateness of publication of statistics; the collection of monthly figures presented an opportunity of obtaining early information on a

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monthly basis regarding food and other items. Advance information must be obtained regarding the production of a number of important commodities and this was the only way in which it could be done. Having obtained the information it was found that, for several reasons, it did not coincide with the annual figures and assistance in the matter could only be achieved by co-operation from the State Statistical Offices. It was proposed to prepare a statement giving details of production on a monthly and annual basis and this would be submitted to State Statisticians officially; any help which the States can provide in rectifying the monthly figures or explaining the reason for the disparity will be of considerable assistance.

Item 7. Matter of Report to Statisticians.

It had been agreed that a combined report, signed by all members, regarding the results achieved at the Conference should be submitted, and it was arranged that a draft be prepared by the Chairman.

Western Australia thought it should be recorded that certain States had decided they had no authority to deal with certain matters, particularly item 3 on the Agenda - Matters arising from decisions of 1945 Conference - which had been raised, but no action taken.

In conclusion, Victoria proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman who then thanked the members for the consideration which had always been extended to him at these Conferences.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T.
3.12.47.

Conference of Factory Statistical Officers
Canberra, 10th - 13th November, 1947.

Resume of Introductory Address by Dr. Wilson, Commonwealth Statistician.

The Conference of Officers responsible for factory statistics in the Commonwealth and State Statistical Offices, held in Canberra from 10th to 13th November, 1947, was opened by Dr. Roland Wilson, who said that the purpose of the Conference was to recommend revision of the backs of the Factory Forms with the object of putting them on a more satisfactory basis and maintaining uniformity between the States.

Dr. Wilson said that the results of the 1936 Conference paid handsome dividends when War broke out, and this illustrated the importance of the present conference. During the War it was discovered how vital and important the information collected in the factory returns could be, particularly since it was given in greater detail than before and in such a form that it could be aggregated for all States.

Continuing, Dr. Wilson said that the fronts of these forms had received consideration over a considerable period, and it was not proposed at this conference to go into that side of the form in any detail. The major purpose of the Conference was to discuss the back of the forms - not only the contents but also the general arrangement. The members present had had much experience with these forms, and Dr. Wilson expressed the hope that they would have suggestions which could be adopted by the conference and put into effect as soon as possible. The importance of securing this type of information was one of the points which Mr. Stephen had suggested might be specially emphasised, but Dr. Wilson thought that this point was appreciated by all those present. It was being found, particularly today, that many industrialists, who at one time used to supply factory statistics to the Statisticians and then wash their hands of it, were now displaying great interest in the results of the factory collection.

Dr. Wilson said that there were a great many Government activities which depended upon the availability of the information collected on factory forms. An increasing number of people in various branches of private industry also required reliable figures to guide their activities, and these people knew something about the subject and were well-informed critics. For these reasons it was more than ever necessary for each Statistical Office to put its best foot forward and do as good and as accurate a job as possible. If co-operation were to be obtained from private businessmen, real service must be offered in giving back to them the information which they required.

A certain amount of criticism had come from individuals, and the newspapers sometimes ran the Bureau to earth for the lateness of its publications. There was no very satisfactory answer to this type of criticism. Printing difficulties were an acute problem at the moment, but it was hoped that the position would improve. The other major difficulty was that of getting the information quickly to Canberra through the State Offices from those who supplied it. Dr. Wilson said that he appreciated that there were difficulties in collecting the information from private businesses, and whether anything could be done to reduce the time they took to make the returns warranted examination. So far as the handling of data in State Offices was concerned, Dr. Wilson said that he was anxious to see this process hurried up, and this must be tackled by combined effort of the Commonwealth and State Offices. Whether it could be achieved by more staff or by more mechanical equipment was for the Statisticians to say, but delays in the preparation of factory statistics and, indeed, the whole range of statistical information, were creating ill-will because of the length of time which elapsed before the figures appeared in print. The ordinary user did not appreciate the difficulties, and the fact that it was impossible to get the original information immediately with complete accuracy.

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Dr. Wilson added that he would ask all those present to bear in mind that speed in extraction, preparation and publication of information were very important factors in the public's estimation of what the Statistical Offices are worth.

In concluding his remarks, Dr. Wilson said he wished to welcome to Canberra the members from other States. Not only was it of great benefit officially to have them here and to have their advice and assistance but he was also very pleased in a personal way to have these colleagues visit Canberra. He hoped that they would not restrict themselves entirely to matters of business, but would have a good look around the Bureau and talk to the officers as informally as they wished. They would soon come to the conclusion that the Commonwealth people were not very different from the people in their offices at home. They would find that Canberra officers were particularly pleased to have a visit from State officers, because it was realised that the greater the liaison there was between them the better it would be for all concerned.

Dr. Wilson drew attention to the motor tour of the City area which had been arranged and expressed the hope that advantage would be taken of it by all present.

Before retiring, Dr. Wilson thanked the members very much for coming to Canberra and added that he hoped they would not leave until a great deal of work had been achieved.